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Hiramatsu Kannosuke
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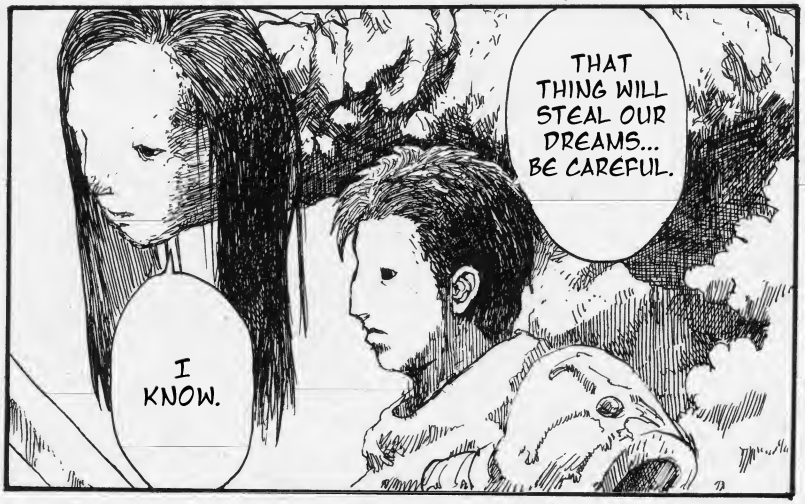
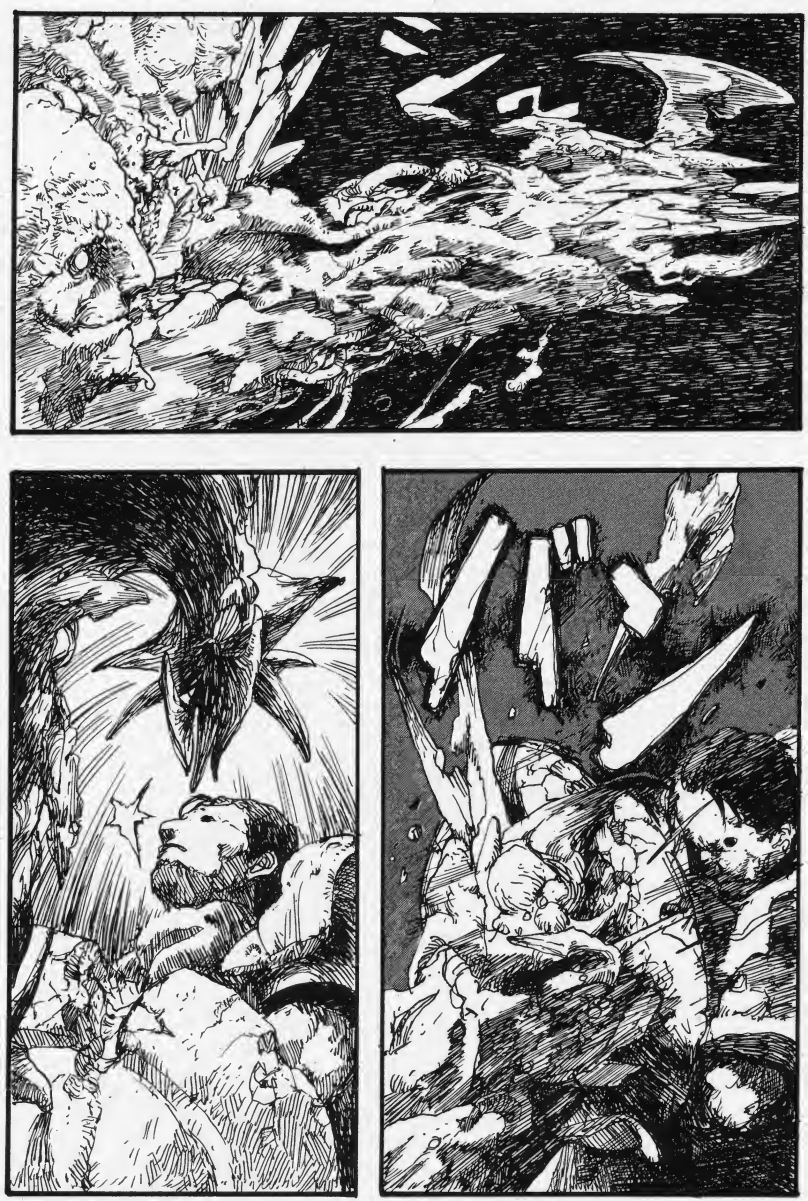

THAT THING WILL STEAL OUR DREAMS... BE CAREFUL.
I KNOW.



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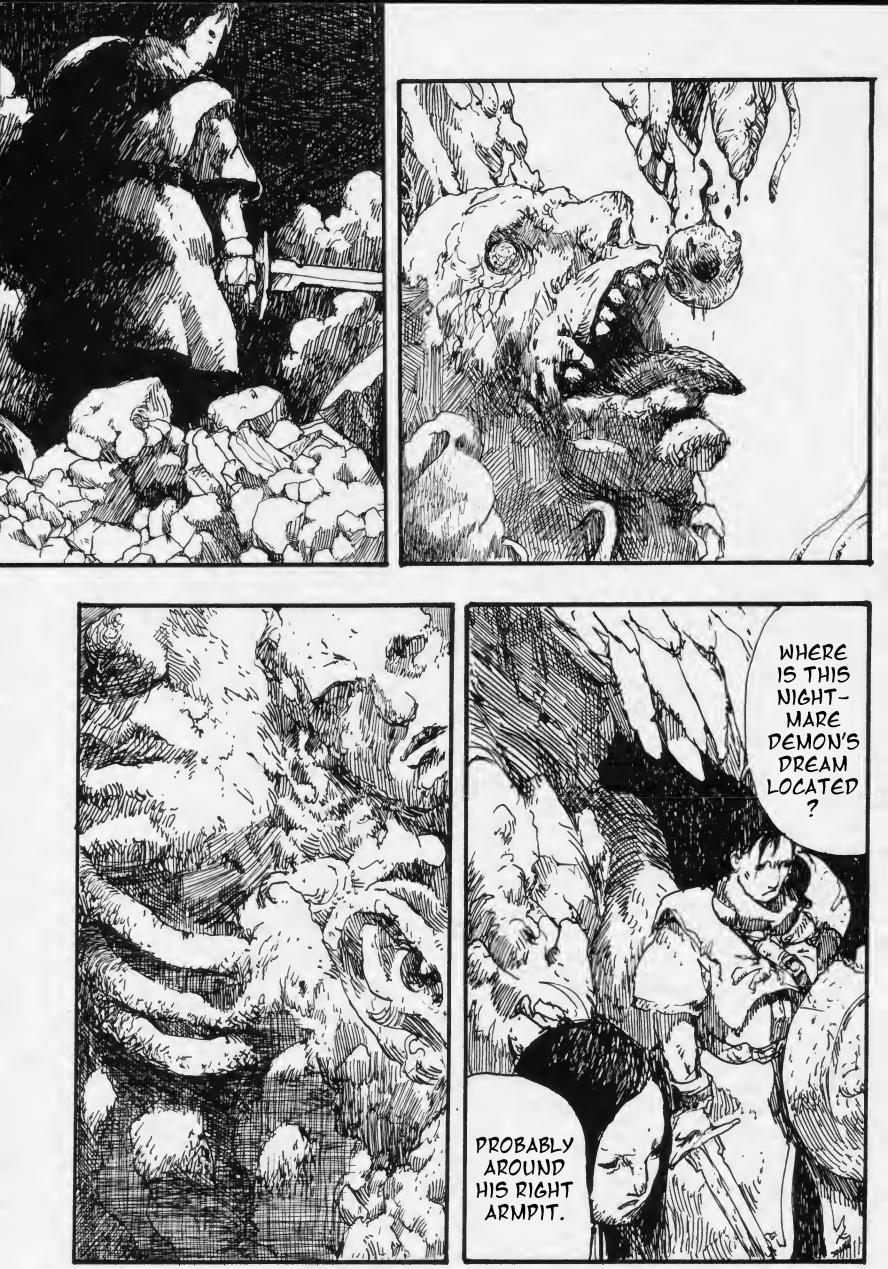
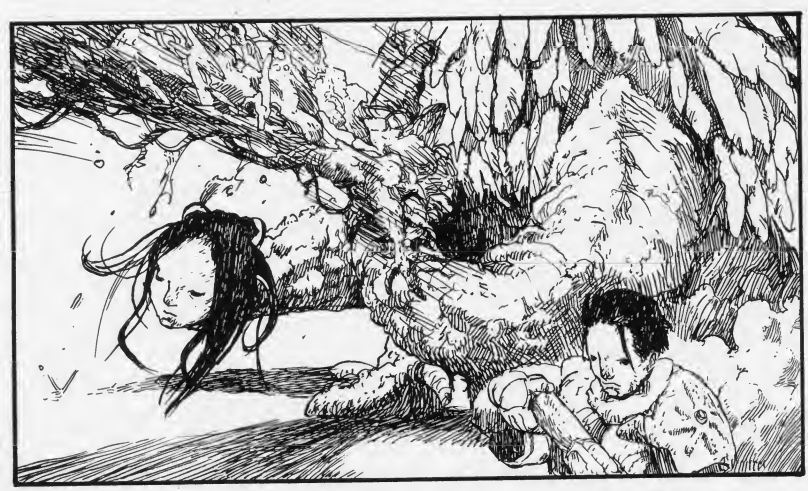
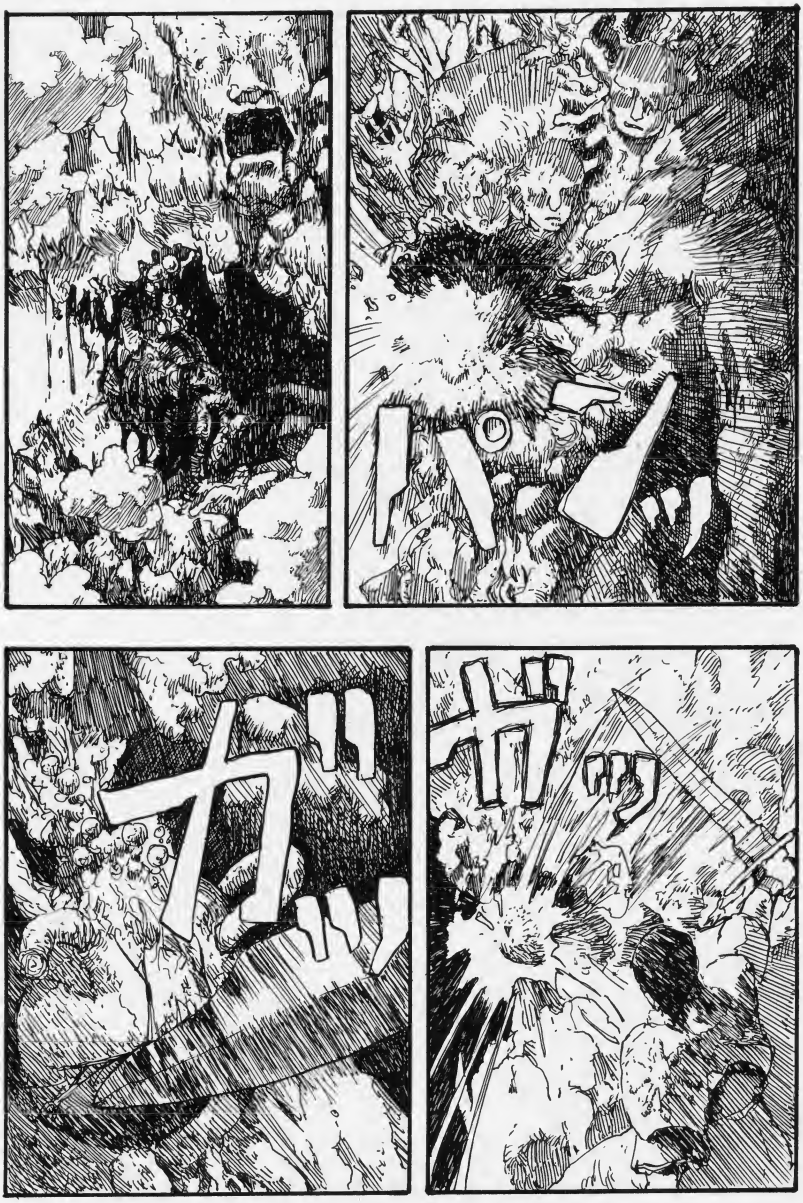

WHERE IS THIS NIGHT-MARE DEMON'S DREAM LOCATED?
PROBABLY AROUND HIS RIGHT ARMPIT.

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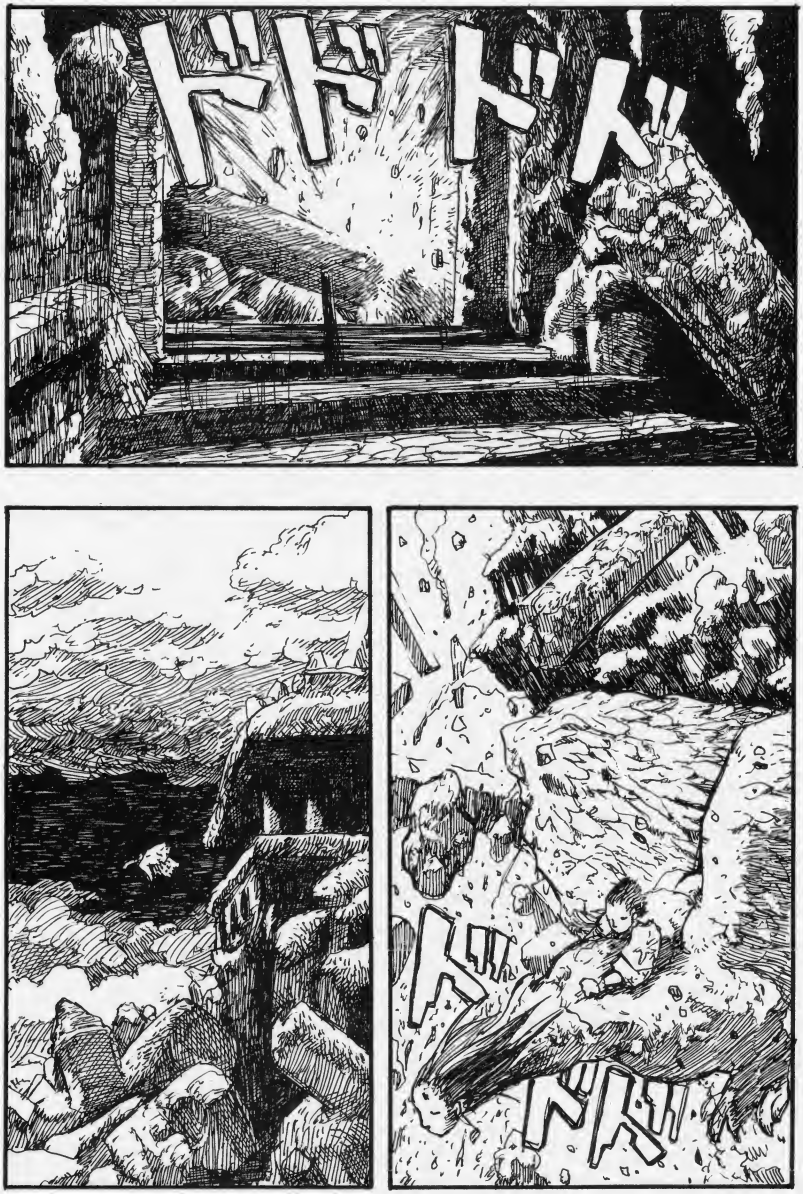
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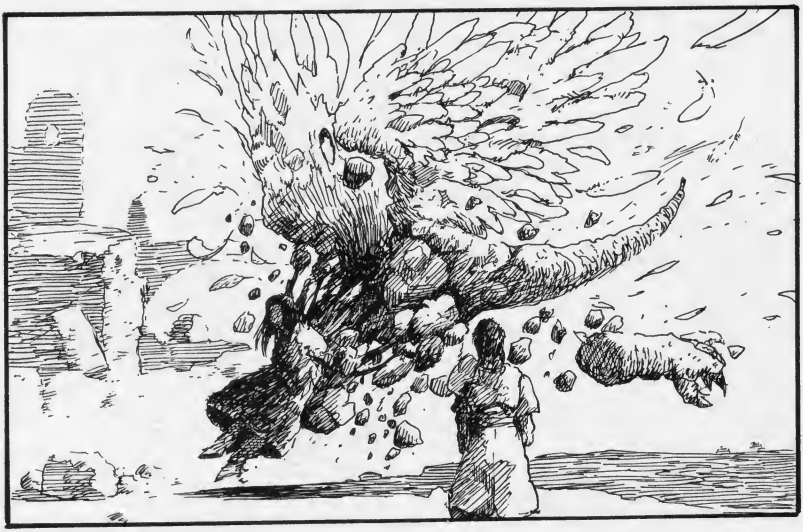
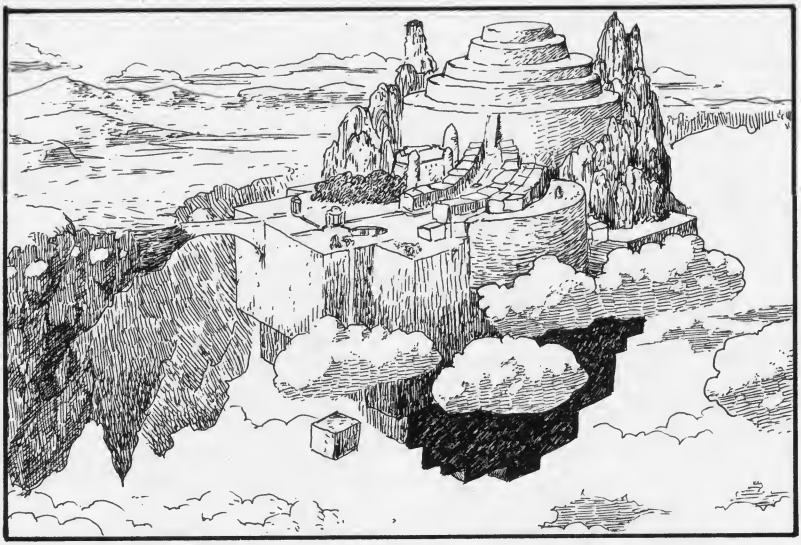
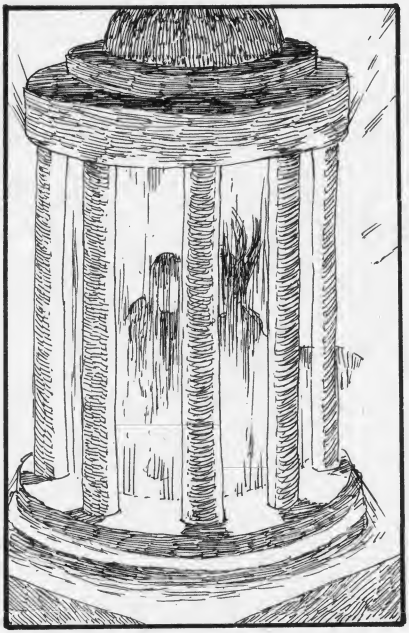
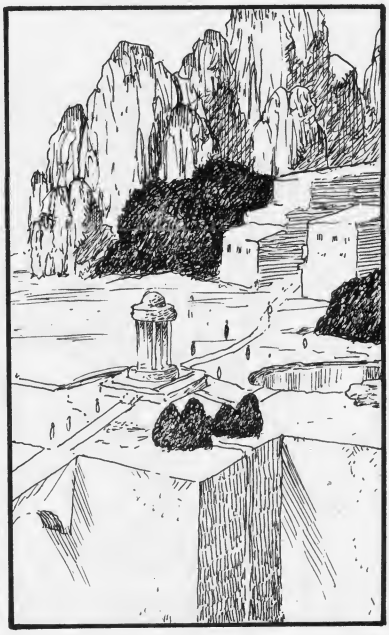
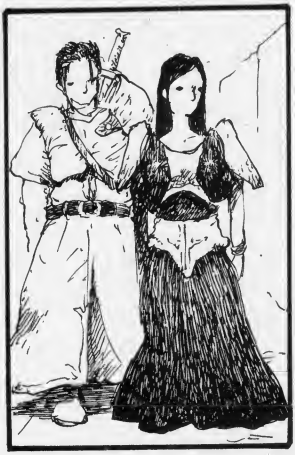
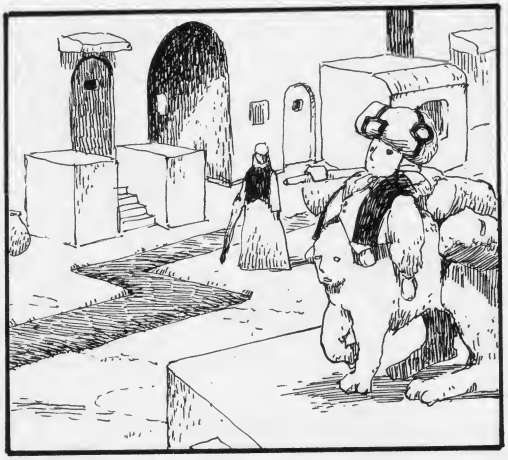








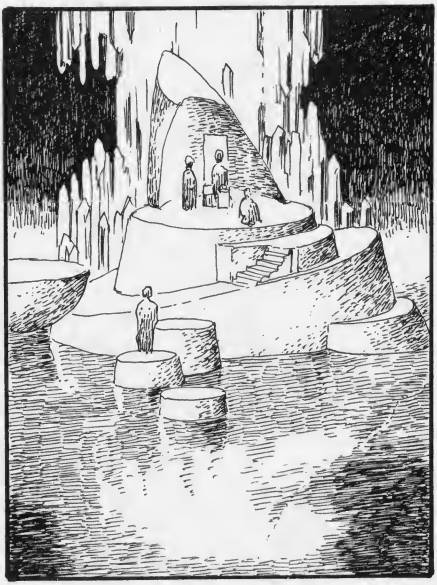




YUKA'S DREAMS ARE NICE, EH?
YES, THANKS TO YOU.

WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T YUKA AND BB.
HELLO. IS YOUR SHOP DOING WELL?

RECENTLY, IN BIG DREAMS, THERE'S ONLY FIGHTING. CAN'T SET UP SHOP THERE.
IT'S NICE AND PEACEFUL HERE, SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE GATHERED.

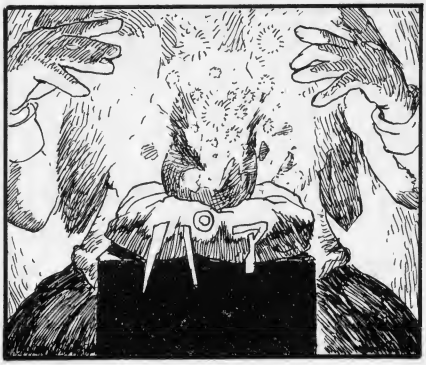


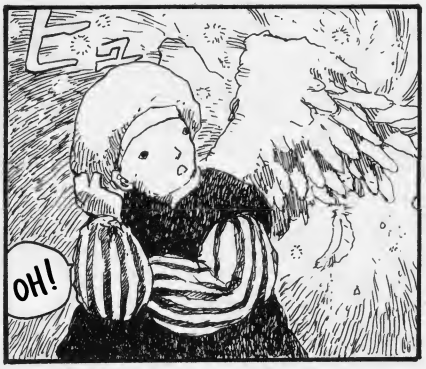
IT'S THANKS FOR LETTING US USE IT FREE OF CHARGE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? USUALLY WHEN OTHER PEOPLE SET UP SHOP VIA THEIR WHITE DREAM, PRESENTING A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS TO THE DREAM'S OWNER IS NORMAL.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE'RE IN THE SAME PARTY, AFTER ALL.
I SEE, THANKS.

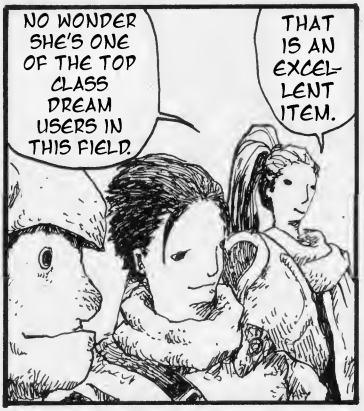
HEY YUKA, YOU WANTED THIS ANGEL'S EGG RIGHT? YOU CAN HAVE IT.
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S ALRIGHT?

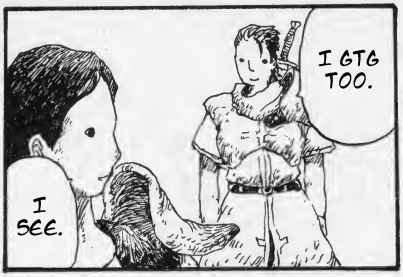
IT'LL BE WEAK AT FIRST, BUT SOON YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FLY.
THE EGG THAT CONTAINED THE DREAM OF HAVING WINGS HATCHED SUCCESS-FULLY.
THANKS!
I KNEW I COULD RELY ON YOUR DREAM WEAVING SER-VICES!
BUT, ARE YOU REALLY ALRIGHT WITH IT BEING FREE OF CHARGE?

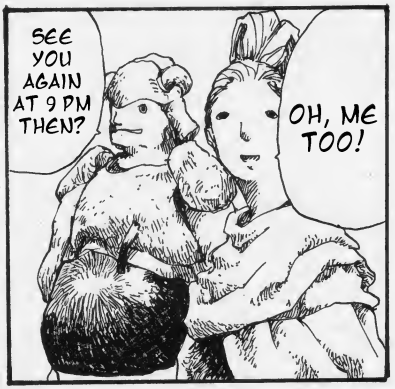


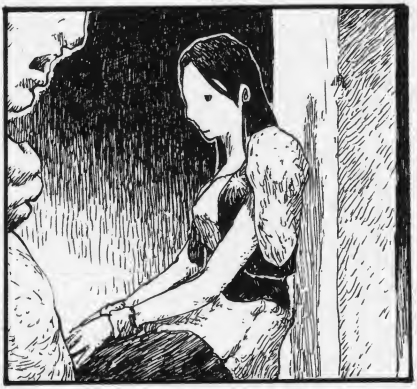

OH!

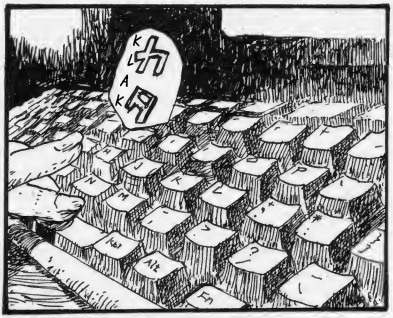
OH, I NEED TO LOG OUT.


NO WONDER SHE'S ONE OF THE TOP CLASS DREAM USERS IN THIS FIELD.
THAT IS AN EXCEL-LENT ITEM.


I GTG TOO.
I SEE.


SEE YOU AGAIN AT 9 PM THEN?
OH, ME TOO!

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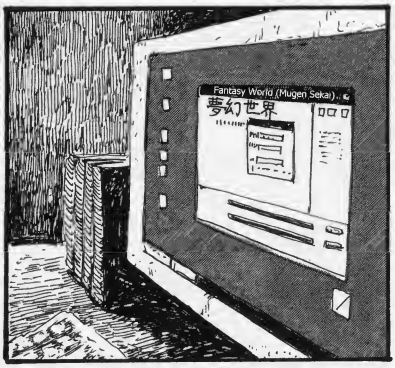
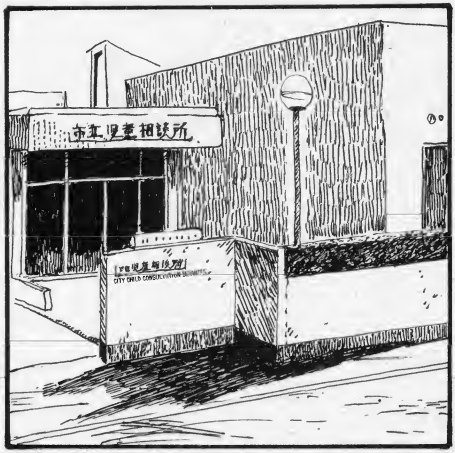
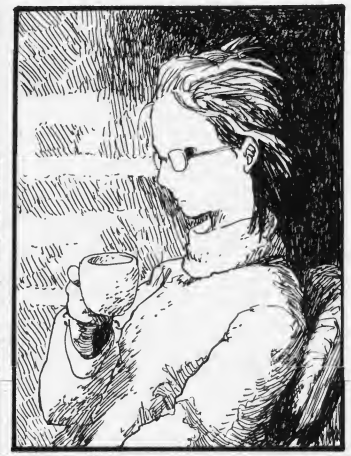
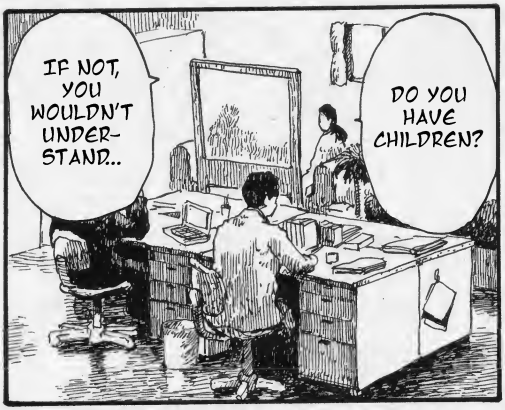

Fantasy World (Mugen Sekai)
夢幻世界

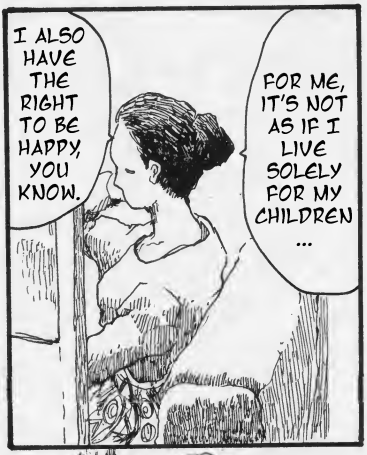

市立児童相談所




DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN?
IF NOT, YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND..

(MEETING ROOM 3)
第3相談室

POLICE ARE INVESTI-GATING IF THE CHILD'S BACK INJURIES ARE A RESULT OF ABUSE.
...


I ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HAPPY, YOU KNOW.
FOR ME, IT'S NOT AS IF I LIVE SOLELY FOR MY CHILDREN ...

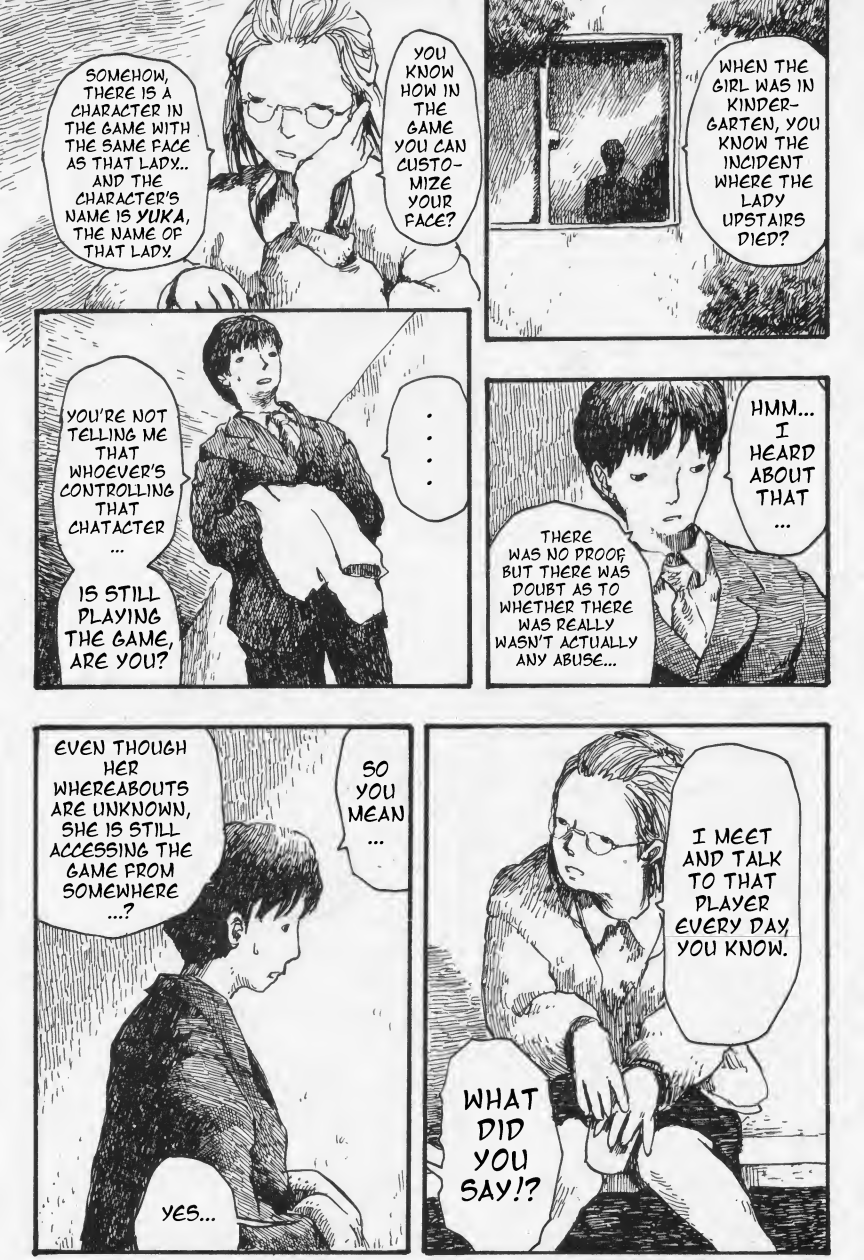
WE AREN'T SAYING YOU'LL BE SEPARATED FOREVER. IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY...
JUST SAYING, IF YOU HAVE WORRIES REGARDING THE CHILD'S UPBRINGING, WE'D LIKE TO RECOM-MEND A COUNS-ELLOR.

HELLO.
HI, DETE-CTIVE.
PLEASE, CALL ME MATSUDA -SAN.
SORRY TO CALL YOU OUT LIKE THIS...
NO, NO, IT WAS NO PROBLEM.
THANKS FOR SHOWING ME THE ROPES WHEN I WAS A NEWB.
THAT ONLINE GAME, FANTASY WORLD...
IT'S SORT OF LIKE YOU'RE SIMULATING THE DREAMS YOU HAVE IN THE REAL WORLD INSIDE THE GAME.
BEING ABLE TO SHARE EACH PLAYER'S DREAMS IS A NEW CONCEPT, RIGHT?
ALTHOUGH I'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY LATELY, AND I HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT IN AWHILE.
IT'S INTER-ESTING, ISN'T IT?
I WAS ADDICTED FOR A WHILE TOO...

ABOUT THE TAKAMORI INCIDENT ...
BUT, IT'S UNEXPECTED THAT A MANAGER LIKE YOU WOULD ENJOY SUCH A GAME, EH?
REALLY?
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE CURRENT CASE WE'RE INVESTIGATING, WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY LEADS YET.
AH... OHH...
UH... YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE...
SHE HAS INJURIES ALL OVER, AND HAS BEEN MALNOURISHED FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME...
WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE BECAUSE OF THE LOCAL REPORT, I COULD ALREADY TELL THAT SHE WAS A VICTIM OF ABUSE.
THAT GIRL, SHIZUKA-CHAN
IT'S A PITY, ISN'T IT?
SHE'S STILL AT AN AGE WHERE SHE CAN'T DO ANYTHING BY HERSELF; YET SHE'S ALREADY BEEN THROUGH HELL... AND NOW THIS HAD TO HAPPEN TO HER...

SINCE THEY'VE DISSAPEARED ...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WEEK
WE WERE GOING TO KEEP VISITING HER, AND TAKE THE APPROPRIATE MEASURE IF WE FOUND ANYTHING OUT, BUT...
THE GIRL WAS PROBABLY TOLD NOT TO SAY ANYTHING BY HER FATHER ...
BOTH PARENTS DENIED IT, HOWEVER, LEADING US TO AN IMPASSE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, ANY CRIMINALITY IN THIS CASE ISN'T REALLY CLEAR CUT, SO THE POLICE'S HANDS ARE TIED...
THE FATHER JUST RECENTLY QUIT HIS JOB... AND THERE WASN'T REALLY ANYONE THAT KNEW THEM...
WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT COMPUTERS, SHE PERKED UP IMMEDIATELY.
BUT... YOU KNOW HOW HER FATHER'S JOB INVOLVES COMPUTERS? SHE WAS USING HER FATHER'S OLD COMPUTERS.
PERHAPS THE EMOTIONS SHE'S SUPPRESSING IN REAL LIFE WERE STILL FUNCTIONING IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD...
NO MATTER WHAT I SAID, SHE DIDN'T REACT... IT'S AS IF I WERE TALKING TO A DOLL.
I TALKED TO HER ALONE MANY TIMES, HOWEVER ...
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE CAN'T FEEL EMOTIONS ANYMORE DUE TO THE HARDSHIP SHE'S FACED.

IT WASN'T REALLY PERSONAL, JUST DOING MY JOB...
AT FIRST, I STARTED PLAYING BECAUSE I WANTED TO GET CLOSER TO HER, AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP..
THAT THERE WAS THIS GAME CALLED FANTASY WORLD.
I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM HER, YOU KNOW...
HM?
I WANTED TO GET CLOSER TO HER WITHOUT REVEALING MY IDENTITY, SO I FELT LIKE I HAD TO JOIN HER PARTY SOMEHOW.
YEAH...
SO... YOU MADE A CHARACTER IN THE GAME FOR HER SAKE?
ALTHOUGH I'M ALSO NOT 100% CONVINCED EITHER...
I'VE GUESSED BASED ONLY ON WHAT SHE HAS SAID.
TRUE, IT COULD BE THAT I AM ONLY OF THE IMPRESSION THAT I JOINED HER PARTY...
PLAYERS ARE ANONYMOUS YOU KNOW, AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE PLAY THE GAME.
REALLY? BUT...
ARE YOU SURE THAT THE PARTY YOU JOINED WAS REALLY HERS?
BUT...
I CAN'T BE TOO FORCEFUL ABOUT IT OR ELSE SHE MIGHT GET SUSPICIOUS AND JUST HIDE HERSELF FROM ME, AND THAT WOULD BE THE END..


SOMEHOW, THERE IS A CHARACTER IN THE GAME WITH THE SAME FACE AS THAT LADY... AND THE CHARACTER'S NAME IS YUKA, THE NAME OF THAT LADY.
YOU KNOW HOW IN THE GAME YOU CAN CUSTO-MIZE YOUR FACE?
WHEN THE GIRL WAS IN KINDER-GARTEN, YOU KNOW THE INCIDENT WHERE THE LADY UPSTAIRS DIED?
YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME THAT WHOEVER'S CONTROLLING THAT CHATACTER ... IS STILL PLAYING THE GAME, ARE YOU?
. . . .
HMM... I HEARD ABOUT THAT ...
THERE WAS NO PROOF BUT THERE WAS DOUBT AS TO WHETHER THERE WAS REALLY WASN'T ACTUALLY ANY ABUSE...
EVEN THOUGH HER WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN, SHE IS STILL ACCESSING THE GAME FROM SOMEWHERE ...?
SO YOU MEAN ...
YES...
I MEET AND TALK TO THAT PLAYER EVERY DAY, YOU KNOW.
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

SO IF WE CAN TRACE HER ACCESS POINT...
WE CAN FIND OUT WHERE THEY'RE LIVING...
IS THAT POS-SIBLE?
IF WE CONTACT THE GAME'S PUBLISHER, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN INFOR-MATION, LIKE AN IP ADDRESS ...
I'M STILL NOT 100% SURE THAT IT REALLY IS HER THOUGH...
AT THIS POINT, WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY OTHER LEAD, SO THIS MIGHT BE OUR ONLY OPTION...
AT THE VERY LEAST, WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHETHER SHE IS STILL ALIVE.
IF WE ARE EVEN A MOMENT TOO LATE...
I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU... I'LL TRY TO GET CLOSER TO HER ONLINE.